

1 THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN
2 EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS
3 FOLLOWS:

4 1. A method for recovering heavy oil from an underground reservoir,
5 comprising:

6 (a) injecting steam and producing heated oil and steam condensate
7 by steam assisted gravity drainage ("SAGD") in a first section of the reservoir
8 until it is substantially uneconomic to continue doing so;

9 (b) preparing an adjoining section of the reservoir for SAGD;

10 (c) terminating or reducing steam injection into the reservoir first
11 section;

12 (d) injecting steam and producing heated oil and steam condensate
13 by SAGD in an adjacent second section of the reservoir; and

14 (e) concurrently with step (d), injecting a non-condensable gas into
15 the first section to pressurize it and producing residual oil and steam
16 condensate from said first section.

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18 2. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein:

19 the first section is pressurized in step (e) to a pressure about equal with
20 the steam injection pressure in step (d).